



BROMSGROVE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1955.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Chairman of the Council—COUNCILLOR H. WEBLEY.
Vice-Chairman—COUNCILLOR C. H. TOMLINSON.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman—COUNCILLOR MRS. K. M. FIELD.
COUNCILLOR F. BERWICK.
COUNCILLOR R. FLETCHER, O.B.E.
COUNCILLOR A. W. GRANT.
COUNCILLOR R. R. HARVEY.
COUNCILLOR P. D. LANE.
COUNCILLOR DR. D. C. MUNDY.
COUNCILLOR N. G. OWEN.
COUNCILLOR A. SPEARS.
COUNCILLOR C. H. TOMLINSON.
COUNCILLOR L. G. WAGSTAFF.
COUNCILLOR H. WEBLEY.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).
Assistant County Medical Officer.
V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., Ch.B.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).
Assistant County Medical Officer.
H. HOLDEN, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Liverpool University Meat and Food Inspector.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Certificate.
Shops Inspector, Petroleum Officer.
C. J. BURFORD, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.B.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
D. J. WAITE, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.B.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Additional Sanitary Inspector—Until 22/6/55.
H. BROOKS, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.B.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Additional Sanitary Inspector—from 12/9/55.

Clerks :

Miss B. WASS, Miss P. WALLACE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of the public health of Bromsgrove Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

Statistically apart from a slight decline in the number of births the year was very similar to the previous one. The percentage of Accidents continued to show a steady rise. The analysis of the 16 deaths attributable to accidents was as follows :—4 Road accidents ; 1 coal gas poisoning ; 1 shotgun ; 1 playing rugby ; 1 asphyxia in infancy ; **8 old people sustaining injury by a fall.**

The notifications of Infectious Disease were high mainly due to the biennial increase of measles. There were, however, a large number of cases of food poisoning owing to two outbreaks in a local institution attributable to incompletely cooked meat. There were six cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis with no deaths.

I wish to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Members of the Council for their continued support and consideration and Mr. Jessop my fellow officers and their staffs for their help and advice.

Mr. Holden and the staff of the Health Department continued their enthusiastic work. The loss of Mr. Waite was keenly felt, but I am sure New Zealand have gained a very useful public health worker.

I should again like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Vera Pugh for deputising for me during my absences from the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 9,228 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of Population mid : 1955—28,980
 1954—29,020
 1953—28,700
 1952—28,460
 1938—23,540

(Census 1951—27,924).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of : 1955—8,657
 1954—8,419
 1953—8,201
 1952—7,978
 1938—6,902

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955 : £162,636.
 Product of Penny Rate £643 1s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1954 figures given in brackets).

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed a decrease of 40 when compared with the 1954 figure.

The natural increase in the population (births/deaths) was 100, suggesting a slight movement out of the district.

Live Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	199	210	409 (423)
Illegitimate ...	9	5	14 (16)
Total ...	208	215	423 (439)

Birth Rate.

(Births per 1,000 population).

1955	1954	1938	1955 (England and Wales)
14.74	15.27	17.8	15.0

Illegitimacy Rate.

(Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births).

1955	1954	1953	1938	1955 (England and Wales).
33.1	36.80	39.17	33.5	45.0

The number of births showed a decrease of 16 over 1954. This brought the district birth-rate below the national average which at 15.0 was 0.2 per thousand less than in 1954.

The number of illegitimate births was again less by 2 than in the previous year, the illegitimate birth-rate being well below the national average of 45.0 per 1,000 total live births.

Still Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	6	3	9 (6)
Illegitimate ...	—	—	— (—)
Total ...	6	3	9 (6)

Still Birth Rate.

(Still Births per 1,000 total births).

1955	1954	1953	1938
20.83	13.61	15.87	27.9

An increase of 3 in the number of still births—50 % rise.

Deaths.

<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
166 (176)	157 (151)	323 (327)

Death Rate.

(Deaths per 1,000 population).

1955	1954	1953	1938	1955 (England and Wales)
11.59	11.71	13.85	12.5	11.7

The Major Causes of Death by Percentage.

1. Disease of the heart and circulatory system 49.9 % (46.0 %)
2. Cancer and other malignant disease... 16.4 % (17.7 %)
3. Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) 15.5 % (14.4 %)
4. Accidents... 5.0 % (4.3 %)
5. Tuberculosis 1.6 % (1.5 %)

The major causes of death remained in the same order as in the previous year. When compared with percentages of previous years a steady increase in Accidents is shown : 1955—5.0 % ; 1954—4.3 % ; 1953—2.9 % ; 1952—2.7 %.

Percentage distribution of Deaths.

<i>Age at Death.</i>	%1955	%1954	%1953
0—1 year ...	3.10 %	4.28 %	1.81 %
1—14 years ...	2.17 %	2.45 %	2.07 %
15—44 years ...	5.88 %	5.20 %	4.15 %
45—64 years ...	19.50 %	25.38 %	19.43 %
65 and over ...	69.35 %	62.69 %	72.54 %

Maternal Mortality

(Maternal deaths per 1,000 total births).

1955	1954	1953	1938	1955 (England and Wales)
Nil.	Nil.	2.26	1.17	0.64 (0.69)

One death was registered as following childbirth. However, this occurred a considerable time after the event. Other factors were the main cause of death in this case.

Infant and Neonatal Mortality.

Infant Deaths.

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year).

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	3	5	8 (13)
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1 (1)
Total ...	4	5	9 (14)

Neonatal Deaths.

(Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks).

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	3	4	7 (7)
Illegitimate ...	—	—	— (—)
Total ...	3	4	7 (7)

Death Rates of Infants and Neonatal Deaths :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	1955	1954	1938	1955 (England and Wales).
Deaths of legitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 legitimate births	19.56	30.73	56.9	—
Deaths of illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births	71.43	62.50	166.7	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births ...	16.55	15.94	—	17.3
Deaths of all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ...	21.28	31.89	59.8	24.9 (25.5)

The Causes of Infant Deaths.
(Neonatal figures given in brackets).

	1955	1954	1953
Congenital Malformations	1 (1)	5 (3)	3 (3)
Prematurity	5 (5)	2	2 (2)
Respiratory Disease	1	5 (1)	1 (1)
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	1
Birth Trauma	1 (1)	2 (2)	—
Asphyxia	1	—	—
Total	9 (7)	14 (6)	7 (6)

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT
1955.**

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mor- tality Rate</i>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory... ..	4	1	5	0.18
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic Diseases	—	1	1	0.04
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8	0.29
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	—	12	0.43
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	6	6	0.22
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4	4	0.14
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	8	23	0.83
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1	0.04
16. Diabetes	1	—	1	0.04
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	22	26	48	1.72
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	30	18	48	1.72
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	6	11	0.39
20. Other heart disease	16	29	45	1.60
21. Other Circulatory Disease	3	6	9	0.32
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	15	12	27	0.97
24. Bronchitis	14	7	21	0.75
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory ... system	—	2	2	0.07
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3	0.11
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	1	0.04
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3	0.11
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1	0.04
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	0.04
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	10	16	26	0.93
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4	0.14
34. All other accidents	5	7	12	0.43
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
Total	166	157	323	11.59

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

<i>Clinic.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Time of Holding.</i>
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre	Recreation Road	Wednesday 2.0 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre	Baptist Chapel	Friday 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic	Recreation Road	Monday 10.0—12.0 noon & 2.0—4.0 p.m.
School Clinic	Recreation Road	Monday and Wednesday 10.0 a.m. —12.0 noon.
Dental Clinic	Recreation Road	As arranged.
Tuberculosis.	Bromsgrove General Hospital	Tuesday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic	St. Chad's Church Hall	1st & 3rd Thursdays 10.0 a.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare.	St. Chad's Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.0 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.	Recreation Road	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11.0 a.m.

These clinics, administered by the County Council, continued to do valuable service towards the preservation of health and the prevention of disease. The great help given at the Infant Welfare Clinics by voluntary workers was very much appreciated by the Medical and Nursing Staffs.

(b) Home Nursing and Midwifery.

Three agencies were available to provide help to the expectant mother :—(1) The family doctor—ante and post-natal care and conduct of the confinement. (2) The County Council—ante-natal clinics and provision of midwives to conduct delivery or assist the family doctor as maternity nurses. (3) The Regional Hospital Board—provision of hospital beds for delivery and treatment. The functions

of these three agencies overlapped to some degree, but, by co-operation between them, the midwifery service ran smoothly and to the benefit of mothers and their babies.

The County Medical Officer continued to act as agent for the Regional Hospital Board in the allocation of beds.

The nurses resident within the Urban District attended :—

157 Cases as Midwives ...	)	making 3,346 visits.
19 Cases as Maternity Nurses		
551 Cases as General Nurses ...		making 16,180 visits.

(c) Health Visiting

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service.

Miss Hopkins, 15 Wellington Road, Bromsgrove.

Mrs. Salter, 62 Bath Road, Worcester.

Miss Wilcox, 3 Flat, Hill Fields, Redlake Road, Pedmore.

(d) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, and chemical analyses were made by the County Laboratory, County Buildings, Worcester.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination.

The County Council provided a free Immunisation and Vaccination Service through which parents could have their children protected against Diphtheria and Smallpox, either through clinics or by their own doctors.

Locally, this service was arranged through the Urban District's Health Department. Details of the number of Immunisations and Vaccinations done is given under Section F.

(f) Hospitals.

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district :—

1. Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen ; Little Bromwich Fever Hospital.
2. Maternity	Bromsgrove General Hospital. Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge. Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.
3. General Medical and Surgical Cases.	Bromsgrove General Hospital. Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Birmingham Hospitals.
4. Chest Surgery.	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
5. Children's Diseases.	Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
6. Venereal Disease.	General Hospital, Birmingham. Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
7. Aged Chronic Sick.	Bromsgrove General Hospital.
8. Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.

All these hospital services were provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(g) **Health Education.**

The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education. In general, the working agreement has been that the Central Council for Health Education are responsible for supplying general health education material, while the District Council has to supply material used in campaigns for specific diseases as part of their Disease Prevention Service.

(h) **Care of the Aged and Infirm.**

Action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal of one old person to hospital.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors is given in the report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector and a detailed statement of the sanitary state of the district is included.

The water supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company is sampled frequently, both by the Company and the Sanitary Inspectors. Two specimen reports are set out below :—

(a) Sample marked Borehole, "Bigwood," Washingstocks Pumping Station.

<i>Physical Characters</i> ...	...	Clear.
Odour ...	...	None.
Deposit ...	...	None. pH7.7.

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per million).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	Nil
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	...	...	280
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	250
Chlorine Expressed as Chloride	...	...	18
Hardness. Non-Carbonate	...	...	100
Hardness. Carbonate	...	...	110
Hardness. Total	...	...	210
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	Nil.
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	6.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Perman- ganate)	...	...	Nil
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected.
Free CO ₂	...	...	4

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C ... Nil per one ml.

(b) In three days at 22°C. ... 1 per one ml.

Presumptive coliform count ... Nil per 100 ml.

*Opinion :—*The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

14th June, 1955.

(b) Sample marked Well and Borehole, "Lambert," Greenhill.

Burcot Pumping Station.

<i>Physical Characters</i>	...	...	Clear.	
Odour	...	...	None.	
Deposit	...	...	None.	pH 7.1

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per million).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	Nil.
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	...	225
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	195
Chlorine Expressed as Chloride	...	18
Hardness. Non-Carbonate	...	55
Hardness. Carbonate	...	90
Hardness. Total	...	145
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	6.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	0.15
Toxic Metals	...	None detected
Free CO ₂	...	28

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C. ... 1 per one ml.

(b) In three days at 22°C. ... 1 per one ml.

Presumptive coliform count ... Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion :—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

25th June, 1955.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal are supervised by the Surveyor. The collections of refuse are weekly in the town area and fortnightly in the more rural areas.

The amount of refuse collected during the year was approx. 12,151 tons.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The housing position at the end of 1955 was as follows :—

Number of houses in the district	...	8,657
Number of persons per house	...	3.34
Number of houses built by private enterprise	...	161
Number of houses built by Council	...	118
Number of houses under construction at end of year	...	349
Number of houses demolished during 1955	...	21

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details of the very considerable work carried out by the Health Department under this heading is given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Corrected Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	5	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	3	2	—
Measles	432	5	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	19	3	27
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	17	17	—
Meningococcal Infections...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	6	6	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	66	32	—
TOTALS	598 (191)	82 (77)	27 (21)

The number of notifications of infectious diseases increased by three times that of the previous year. This was accounted for by the biennial increased incidence of measles and a large number of cases of food poisoning.

Three cases of paratyphoid fever were notified. The sources of infection were not traced. However, in one case there was a possible connection with an institution in the area in which paratyphoid is endemic.

Six cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were notified 5 being paralytic and 1 non-paralytic. There were no deaths.

There were 66 notified cases of food poisoning, 62 of these occurred in two similar outbreaks during the year at an institution within the district.

The causal organism in the first outbreak was not found. However, on the second occasion streptococcus faecalis was found in very large numbers in the meal presented for analysis. Inspection pointed to the incomplete cooking of large joints of meat, in both instances followed by inadequate cooling.

Advice was given and it is hoped that no further outbreaks will occur.

No source was traced in the other 2 cases.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality 1945—1955.		
<i>Year.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1945	13	1
1946	8	—
1947	8	—
1948	14	—
1949	1	—
1950	1	—
1951	—	—
1952	—	—
1953	—	—
1954	—	—
1955	—	—

For the fifth consecutive year there were no cases of diphtheria notified. The last diphtheria death was in 1945.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1955 was as follows :—

Primary Immunisation.

			1955.	1954.	1953.
Under 5 years	...	...	303	298	320
5—14 years	...	...	44	47	48
Total	...	...	347	345	368
Reinforcing "Booster"					
injection	...	...	192	306	369

The "immunisation state" of Bromsgrove children on the 31st December, 1955 was as follows :—

<i>Age at 31/12/55 i.e. born in yr.</i>	<i>Under 1 1955</i>	<i>1—4 1954-1951</i>	<i>5—9 1950-1946</i>	<i>10—14 1945-1941</i>	<i>Under 15 Total.</i>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A.1951-1955	40 (27)	1079 (1106)	1878 (1733)	281 (315)	3278 (3181)
B.1950 or earlier	—	—	445 (489)	1835 (1780)	2280 (2269)
Number of Births	423 (439)	1660 (1627)	—	—	—

Vaccination.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-Vaccinated) during 1955.

<i>Age at date of Vaccination.</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total 1955</i>	<i>Total 1954</i>	<i>Total 1953</i>
Number Vaccinated	206(193)	6	3	6	4	225	205	215
No. Re-Vaccinated	—	—	2	4	16	22	4	32

There were 20 more vaccinations recorded than in the previous year. The number vaccinated in the first year of life was 206 ; 13 more than in the previous year. This number of infants represents 47.8 % (44.2 %) of the average number of births in the two years 1955 and 1954 which was 431 (437).

Tuberculosis.

The state of the Tuberculosis List at the end of 1955 was as follows :

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary	103	87	190 (178)
Non-Pulmonary	10	11	21 (22)
TOTAL	113	98	211 (200)

Tuberculosis Incidence and Mortality for the year 1955.

<i>Age</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	11	9	1	Nil	4	1	Nil	Nil
	20	(30)	1	(5)	5	(5)	Nil	(Nil)

During the year 21 (35) new cases were notified; 20 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary.

Deaths at 5 were the same as the previous year.

The total number on the list showed an increase of 11.

The Bromsgrove Tuberculosis After-Care Committee continued to do good work in providing extra help and comforts to needy patients.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FIELD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you a report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in 1955.

The highlight of the year was the preparation and submission of the 5-year Slum Clearance Programme to the Ministry.

The demolition of unfit property has been steadily proceeding since 1952 and the Council's allocation of 10 % of houses built for this purpose has resulted in sixty-one houses being " represented " and forty-five houses being actually demolished up to the end of 1955.

In the field of food hygiene much work has been done, but much more remains to be done and with the advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations, which come into force during 1956, there will be further responsibilities placed upon the food trader and the local authority officers to achieve a higher standard.

During the year, Mr. D. J. Waite, Additional Sanitary Inspector, left the Department to take up similar work in New Zealand. Mr. H. Brooks from South Shields commenced in his stead in September. The Staff of the Department are very willing to co-operate and give of their best and I would like to thank them for their endeavours.

I should like also to thank the Officers of the Council and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the courtesy, kindness and help I receive.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle Exclu- ding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	275	11	26	1653	696	—
Number inspected ...	275	11	26	1653	696	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	3	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	64	5	2	137	29	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	23 %	45 %	8 %	9 %	4 %	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condem'd	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	9	5	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3 %	45 %	—	—	1 %	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION AND APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Tuberculosis ...	528	—	—	64	592
Echinococci ...	41½	—	156	5½	203
Pneumonia ...	4	12	—	28	44
Strongylosis ...	—	—	3	2	5
Fevered Condition	—	—	60	—	60
Cysticercus Bovis ...	25	—	—	—	25
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	20	—	20
Cirrhosis ...	86	—	2	10	98
Necrosis ...	4	—	—	—	4
Distomatosis ...	197	—	85½	—	282½
Pericarditis... ..	—	—	—	1½	1½
Renal Abscess ...	3	—	—	—	3
Injury ...	—	—	40	—	40
Jaundice ...	—	—	70	—	70
Actinomycosis ...	8	—	—	—	8
Endocarditis ...	—	—	—	1	1
*Swine Fever ...	—	—	—	195	195
Bone Taint ...	839½	—	—	—	839½
Totals ...	1736	12	436½	307	2491½

or 1 ton, 2 cwt. 27½ lbs.

*Later confirmed by Ministry of Agriculture.

Other food found to be unfit for human consumption is listed below :—

Meat Pastes	...	...	...	...	43 jars.
Pigs' Kidneys	...	...	...	...	28 lb.
Cod Fillets	...	...	...	...	8 lb.
Veal and Ham Pies	...	...	...	...	17 lb.
Jam	...	...	...	...	1 lb.

Tinned Goods.

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	106 tins
Tinned Soups, etc.	...	...	...	...	22 tins.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	180 tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	94 tins.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	...	184 tins.
Tinned Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	24 tins.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

The Sanitary Inspectors have continued to act as Certification Officers for the Ministry of Food Fatstock Marketing Division at the two licensed Deadweight Certification Centres in the district. 285 pigs were certified during the year.

Food Premises :

The total number of visits to food premises during the year, including visits to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection was 957.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, which come into operation during 1956, extend the previous law relating to food premises and specific requirements are now laid down in the Regulations designed to prevent the contamination of food.

The regulations will assist Sanitary Inspectors to achieve a much desired standard and it is hoped that this will be reached with the full co-operation of the traders and food handlers, and without having to resort to legal proceedings to enforce the provisions. Much has been achieved in the past by mutual co-operation between the officers and the traders, and I hope that the further requirements of the new Regulations will be accepted as necessary in the interests of food hygiene.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SWABS TAKEN FROM FOOD PREMISES.

TYPE OF UTENSIL.	COLONY COUNTS						BACTERIUM COLI			% of Total Swabs taken which are considered satisfactory, *
	No. of Swabs Taken.	Sterile.	Under 100	Over 100 and less than 1,000	Over 1000 and less than 10,000	Over 10,000 and less than 100,000	Absent	Present		
								Non-Faecal	Faecal	
Tea Cups 	22	6	13	1	2	—	21	1	—	86.36
Tea Plates 	11	2	7	2	—	—	9	2	—	72.72
Dinner Plates 	10	3	5	1	1	—	10	—	—	80.0
Dessertspoons 	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	100.0
Forks 	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	100.0
Glass Tumblers 	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	100.0
Soup Plates 	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	100.0
Coffee Cups 	5	1	4	—	—	—	4	1	—	80.0
TOTALS 	57	18	32	4	3	—	53	4	—	84.21

*Colony Counts of below 100 with no coliform bacteria present.

The bacteriological examination of swabs of food utensils taken at catering establishments has continued during the year.

These swabs are submitted to Dr. Henderson, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory in Worcester. This service has been given by Dr. Henderson since 1953 and a comparison with the earlier results shows a marked improvement in the cleanliness of utensils. The agreed standard is that the colony counts should be less than 100 with no coliform bacilli present.

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is :—

(a) Ice Cream Premises	...	...	94
(b) Premises for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food			29

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Seventeen licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the provisions of this Act.

Milk Supply :

Fourteen visits were made to the two dairies in the district. The number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination was 80, and they are classified below :—

<i>Samples.</i>	<i>No. taken for bacteriological examination</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Sterilised Milk ...	14	14	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	23	23	—
Pasteurised ...	29	29	—
Tuberculin Tested	14	14	—
Totals ...	80	80	—

The number of licences in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations is as follows :—

	<i>Tuberculin Tested.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>
No. of Dealers' Licences ...	4	5	12
No. of Supplementary Licences ...	9	9	10

Ice Cream :

Samples of Ice Cream taken for bacteriological examination numbered 98. The results, with a comparison of the 1954 figures, are set out below :—

Ice Cream—Bacteriological Results 1954 and 1955.

1954.			1955.		
<i>Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade.</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>
1.	112	94.9	1.	97	99.0
2.	2	1.7	2.	1	1.0
3.	4	3.4	3.	—	—
4.	—	—	4.	—	—
Total	118	100.0	Total	98	100.0

The number of premises registered is :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	7
Sale only	... ..	29
Sale of Pre-packed only	... ..	65

Food and Drugs Act—Sampling :

I am authorised by the County Council to act as a Sampling Officer on their behalf within the district. Sampling under this arrangement is independent of, and in addition to, sampling carried out by the County Officers.

Samples taken and submitted for analysis were as follows :—

Milk—Formal Samples	46
---------------------	--------	----

Two samples were found to be deficient in fat. The results of the samples are listed below :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
978	3.3 % Deficient in fat	—
985	16.6 % Deficient in fat	—

Further samples taken from these two purveyors have been satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

An analysis of the sanitary accommodation, drainage and water supply position of houses in the district, is set out below :—

	No.	%
No. of houses in District	8657	100
No. of houses with Separate W.C.'s	7568	87.42
No. of houses with Combined W.C.'s	428	4.94
No. of houses with Privies and Earth Closets ...	105	1.21
No. of houses with Pails and Chemicals	502	5.80
No. of houses with Combined Pails	32	0.37
No. of houses with Waste Water Closets	22	0.26
No. of houses with separate Mains Water Supply	8091	93.46
No. of houses with Standpost Mains Water Supply	459	5.30
No. of houses with Wells, Springs or Pump Water Supply	107	1.24
No. of houses with Baths	6163	71.19
No. of houses connected to Sewer	7326	84.63
No. of houses connected to Cesspools	875	10.11
No. of houses connected to Septic Tanks	162	1.87
No. of houses with no proper drainage.	294	3.39

Tents, Vans and Sheds :

Public Health Act licences are in force for 90 caravans in the district. Sixty-two of these caravans are situated on two licensed sites—the rest are on individual sites or on sites for not more than 3 vans.

Difficulties have been experienced from time to time on the two larger sites arising from the disposal of sink waste water, but these difficulties have been temporarily overcome.

It is necessary to carry out regular inspection in order to prevent public health nuisances arising.

Water Supply.

Twenty-seven samples of the town's mains water supply were submitted to the County Analyst and the Pathological Laboratory for chemical and bacteriological analysis, all of which were satisfactory.

Five samples of water from wells and springs etc., were submitted, four of which were unsatisfactory.

Drainage :

Below is a summary of the work done on drainage during the year :—

Houses connected to sewer (excluding new houses) ...	21
Houses connected to cesspools (excluding new houses) ...	3
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	33
No. of tests applied to house drains	139
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, urinals, etc. dealt with	23
No. of cesspools abolished	21
New W.C.'s provided in lieu of pails, etc.	19
Baths provided	16
No. of pails abolished	9

Cesspool Emptying.

It has not been possible to maintain a routine twice-yearly emptying service, owing principally to labour difficulties.

The number of cesspools, septic tanks, etc., where sewers are not available, is 777, and the average routine emptying service given is three times every two years. However, complaints are always dealt with to relieve nuisances.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Emptier during the year :—

No. of Cesspools Emptied	...	...	991
No. of loads from Cesspools	...	...	970
No. of Privies Emptied	...	...	270
No. of Pails Emptied	...	...	1141
Mileage Covered	...	...	5916

Ashes Accommodation.

During the year 894 dustbins were delivered to householders under the Bin Replacement Scheme.

The scheme commenced in 1951 when it was not possible to obtain galvanised bins. These early issues of non-galvanised bins are now having to be replaced.

Disinfestation :

Number of houses disinfested	3
------------------------------	-----	-----	---

The method employed for disinfestation of houses is spraying with Zaldecide/D.D.T.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Operator is employed to undertake treatment on all Council and private properties, and a summary of the work carried out is set out below :—

No. of Treatments at Private Dwellings	315
No. of Treatments at Business Premises	48
No. of Treatments at Council Premises...	
(Sewage Outfall Works, Tips, Housing Estates, etc.)	...
No. of Brookecourse Treatments	4
No. of Properties Revisited and Surveyed	1999
No. of Agricultural Properties Surveyed	20

The rodent problem in the district is now mainly reduced to minor scattered infestations and the maintenance treatments of sewers and the brookcourse, together with block control of centres of infestation, have kept the town district comparatively free from rats. The scattered infestations referred to are usually associated with domestic poultry or pig-keeping. The Sewage Works and refuse tips receive regular attention.

Pets Act, 1951.

Two applications were received under the above Act. Both licences were granted.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Defects or nuisances discovered	...	297
Number abated	... ..	265
Number of notices served	(Informal	113
	Formal 22).	

It was found necessary in three instances to institute legal proceedings—an abatement order was made in each case.

Inspections :

Inspections carried out in the year are recorded below :—

						<i>Re-</i>
					<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Houses under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	228	481
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	4	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	77	11
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	181	23
Entertainment Houses	...	...	...	...	6	—
Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	70	—
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	14	2
Animals or Birds	...	...	...	...	5	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	19	16
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	611	171
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	137	2
Closets—Water	...	...	...	...	34	25
Pails or Privies	...	...	...	...	6	1
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	140	22
Sewers and Street Gullies	...	...	...	...	24	2
Milkshops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	12	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	120	—
Slaughterhouses for Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	639	—
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	93	1
General Food Premises	...	...	...	...	91	6
Cottagers' Pigs	...	...	...	...	5	—
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	1	—
Factories	...	...	...	...	35	13
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1	—
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	4	—
Rats and Mice Acts	...	...	...	...	51	1
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	2	3
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	84	45
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	2	4
Housing—Section 11	...	...	...	...	180	31
Housing—Other Visits	...	...	...	...	410	—
Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	248	—
Petroleum Act	...	...	...	...	87	—
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	407	—
Interviews—Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	...	...	...	...	323	—

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED.

W.C. Pedestals renewed or repaired	8
Obstructed Drains	33
W.C. Flushing Cisterns.	12
Floors repaired	12
Roofs repaired	34
Ceiling plaster made good	21
Wallplaster made good	23
Walls repaired	29
Eavespouting and downspouts repaired or renewed ...	23
Chimneys repaired	9
Staircases repaired	7
Firegrates renewed or repaired	1
Dustbins provided by Local Authority	894
Coppers repaired or renewed	3
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Windows repaired or renewed	47
Repairs to waste pipes and gullies	4
Cold water systems	5
Repairs to drains and drainage systems	6
Defective sinks repaired	1
Wash-basins and baths repaired or renewed ...	2

HOUSING.

The five-year Slum Clearance Programme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was as follows :—

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section II or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936—501.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the local authority	118
(ii) By other local authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	161

1. *Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	495
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1007
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932	31
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	31
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	87

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices* :—
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 64
3. *Action under statutory powers during the year* :—
- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 113
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners 16
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 12
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 21
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
4. *Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants.*
 14 houses on which grants for improvements had been approved were completed during the year.
5. *Housing Repairs and Rents Act—Certificates of Disrepair.*
 Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and two certificates were granted.
 Two certificates were revoked on application from the owners after the necessary works had been carried out.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT,

PART 1 OF THE ACTS.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors) :—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	6	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	89	48	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	4	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	99	55	1	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	6	6	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	6	—	5	—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixty-four licences were issued during 1955 for the storage of 97,917 gallons of petroleum spirit.

